

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-14, 16-27, 19-35, and 38-60 are currently pending. Claims 2, 15, 28, 36-37 having been canceled. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-12, 14, 16-18, 20-27, 29-35, and 38-39 have been amended. Claims 40-60 have been added. No new matter is added.

The present amendment is submitted in accordance the Revised Amendment Format as set forth in the Notice provided on the USPTO web site for the Office of Patent Legal Administration; Pre-OG Notices; signed 1/31/03.

The specification has been objected to because of number blanks on page 1. The first paragraph on page one has been amended as recommended by the Examiner.

Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention. Claim 10 has been amended to address the §112, second paragraph, rejection and to more clearly recite the present invention. Accordingly, this rejection is believed to be overcome.

Claims 1, 7-8, 12, 14, 22, 25-27, and 29-36 were rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Robbins et al. (U.S. Patent 3,697,876) in view of Dwyer (U.S. Patent 6,201,935). The Examiner has allowed claims 2-6, 9-11, 13, 15-21, 23-24, 28, and 37-39. Applicant has amended the rejected claims to recite the limitations of various allowed claims.

The rejection of claim 1 is moot as claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowed claim 2 and to more clearly recite the present invention.

The rejection of claim 12 is moot as claim 12 has been amended to include the limitation of allowed claim 15 and to more clearly recite the present invention.

The rejection of claim 22 is moot as claim 22 has been amended to include the limitation of allowed claim 24 and to more clearly recite the present invention.

The rejection of claim 27 is moot as claim 27 recites limitations similar to claim 12 and allowed claim 15.

The rejection of claim 31 is moot as claim 31 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 26 and allowed claim 27 and to more clearly recite the present invention.

New claim 40 is allowed as claim 40 recites the limitations of claim 1, claim 8, and allowed claim and 9.

New claim 50 is allowed as claim 50 recited the limitations of claim 22 and allowed claim 23.

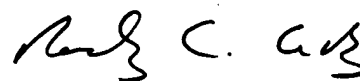
New claim 52 has been added and is believed to be allowed as claim 52 recites various limitations of the allowed claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


Rodney C. LeRoy
Reg. No. 53,205

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
RCL:cmm
PA 3295708 v1